

The federal regulations for IDEA 2004 include a section (Subpart E) called **Procedural Safeguards**. These safeguards are designed to protect the rights of parents and their child with a disability and, at the same time, give families and school systems several mechanisms by which to resolve their disputes.

The most notable procedural safeguards include those listed below.

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The right of parents to receive a **complete explanation of all the procedural safeguards** available under IDEA and the procedures in the state for presenting complaints

Confidentiality and the right of parents to **inspect and review the educational records** of their child

The right of parents to **participate in meetings** related to the identification, evaluation, and placement of their child, and the provision of FAPE (a free appropriate public education) to their child

The right of parents to obtain an **independent educational evaluation** (IEE) of their child

The right of parents to receive “**prior written notice**” on matters relating to the identification, evaluation, or placement of their child, and the provision of FAPE to their child

The right of parents to give or deny their **consent** before the school may take certain action with respect to their child

The right of parents to **disagree** with decisions made by the school system on those issues

The right of parents and schools to **use IDEA’s mechanisms for resolving disputes**, including the right to appeal determinations.